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Agenda item 4

ACTIVITIES OF THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM

Draft resolution submitted by the Chairman

Activities of the United Nations system in science and technology for development

The Commission on Science and Technology for Development recommends to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of the following draft resolution:

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 47/199 of 22 December 1992,

Having considered, through the Commission on Science and Technology for Development, the reports of the Secretary-General on ways and means of improving the quality of coordination and cooperation in science and technology for development, 1/ on the assessment of the effect of activities of the United Nations system related to the process of creating and strengthening endogenous capacity-building in science and technology in developing countries, 2/ and on the activities of the Department of Economic and Social Development in science and technology for development, 3/ the report of the Meeting of High-level Experts on Science and Technology for Development, 4/ and a note by the

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1/ E/CN.16/1993/3.

2/ E/CN.16/1993/4.

3/ E/CN.16/1993/5.

4/ E/CN.16/1993/6.

Secretariat on the Expert Group Meeting on Technology Assessment, Monitoring and Forecasting, 5/ (E/CN.16/1993/CRP.1),

1. Stresses that endogenous capacity-building in science and technology is an indispensable component of any country's effort to mobilize science and technology for development and hence should remain a priority issue on the United Nations agenda;

2. Commends the activities undertaken so far by the United Nations system in assisting the developing countries to enhance their national capacities in the field of science and technology;

3. Commends the innovative features of the series of 10 pilot projects, such as the participatory approach, the demand-driven and developmental orientation and country-level coordination, and requests that those projects be brought to completion and subjected to careful evaluation, with a view to disseminating information on their successful features;

4. Stresses the need for national policies in support of science and technology communities to enhance information-management capacity and to facilitate affordable and widespread access to international online science and technology information networks;

5. Calls upon organizations and agencies of the United Nations system and encourages other international assistance agencies:

(a) To formulate and propose programmes for technical, funding and training assistance in the field of information management and connectivity to global and regional networks for the science and technology communities in all countries;

(b) To support activities aimed at updating and upgrading United Nations-sponsored databases in the field of science and technology and making such databases, including those on science and technology policy, technology assessment and endogenous capacity-building, increasingly available to all countries through online access, floppy disks and other electronic as well as traditional means;

6. Commends the activities of the United Nations in the field of technology assessment, monitoring and forecasting, especially the work related to the Advanced Technology Assessment System, and takes note of the recommendations of the Expert Group which considered the subject at its meeting in Paris, from 25 to 28 January 1993;

7. Invites the Commission on Science and Technology for Development to establish a system for taking inventory of and reporting on the programmes for science and technology activities of the United Nations system, with a view to proposing pragmatic approaches to improving the quality of intergovernmental

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5/ E/CN.16/1993/CRP.1.

coordination and cooperation in the area of science and technology within the United Nations system, and to promoting synergies;

8. Requests the Secretary-General, with the assistance of the relevant organs, organizations and agencies of the United Nations system, in particular the regional commissions and the resident coordinators, to prepare a report on the progress being achieved and any major problems encountered in the application of science and technology for sustainable development at the national, subregional and regional levels, with a view to identifying new options for international action;

9. Requests the secretariat of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development to submit to the Commission, for comments, the results of the meeting of its ad hoc Working Group on the Interrelationship between Investment and Technology Transfer;

10. Requests the United Nations University to provide the Commission on Science and Technology for Development, at its second session, with a synoptic report on its latest work related to science and technology, in particular the progress achieved in the work of UNU/INTECH, UNU/IIST, UNU/INRA and UNU/BIOLAC, and make proposals, for consideration by the Commission, on the possible measures to be taken to maximize the impact of those initiatives on the work of the United Nations system as a whole, as well as the system's interaction with development-oriented epistemic communities and donor communities in general;

11. Requests the Secretary-General to prepare, for the second session of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development, a report on the progress achieved in coordination and cooperation within the United Nations system, concentrating on endogenous capacity-building in technology assessment, information management, and other themes to be selected by the Commission;

12. Calls upon all Governments to further promote harmonized and coherent approaches and policies to science and technology for development at the national level, and to reflect such harmonized approaches in their multilateral activities throughout the United Nations system;

13. Invites the Commission to develop an appropriate, dynamic mechanism for its interaction with intergovernmental organizations that are not part of the United Nations system, as well as non-governmental organizations, institutions and foundations concerned with science and technology for development;

14. Welcomes, in this connection, such initiatives as that of the Third World Academy of Sciences in establishing regional centres for the application of science and technology for sustainable development in the developing countries;

15. Invites the organs, organizations and agencies of the United Nations system, in their activities related to science and technology, to take full advantage of the potential contribution of relevant intergovernmental organizations outside the United Nations system and of non-governmental organizations.